



Town of Hopkinton

Office of Select Board

330 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 – www.hopkinton-nh.gov

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance Requiring the Wearing of Face Covering or Face Masks Under Certain Conditions Within the Town of Hopkinton

The Town of Hopkinton ordains as follows:

- WHEREAS, RSA 147:1 specifically authorizes towns to make regulations for the prevention and removal of nuisances, and such other regulations relating to the public health as in their judgment the health and safety of the people require, which shall take effect when approved by the Select Board; and
- WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a global pandemic with an unprecedented public health emergency; and
- WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton Select Board recognizes additional measures are necessary to prevent or reduce the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS, infectious diseases are caused by germs such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. COVID-19 is a viral illness that has the ability to be spread from person to person very easily through respiratory droplets and aerosols. Public Health Officials have determined that it is well established that an individual infected with COVID-19 can transmit the disease whether or not they are exhibiting any symptoms (an asymptomatic carrier); and
- WHEREAS, it is clinically established that the best means of slowing the spread of a virus is through minimizing close personal contact with individuals in a public environment, social/physical distancing, covering one's mouth and nose by wearing a face covering, and frequent and proper hand washing; and
- WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, face coverings and face masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings, particularly when combined with social/ physical distancing and other sanitary measures such as washing hands or utilizing hand sanitizer; and
- WHEREAS, The New Hampshire State Epidemiologist has determined that community mitigation has been effective in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and continues to be critically important, and that relaxing community mitigation efforts risks additional COVID-19 outbreaks, and

WHEREAS, the Hopkinton Select Board has determined that to continue to reduce the spread and infection of COVID-19, it is in the interest of the health and safety of all Hopkinton residents, visitors, businesses, and the employees of our Town and businesses, to wear face coverings or face masks when entering and existing business establishments, and while inside a business establishment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Hopkinton Select Board hereby adopts the following Ordinance relative to face coverings/face masks during a period of a public health pandemic and state of emergency as declared by the Governor of the State of New Hampshire.

1. "Face covering or face mask" is defined as a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers at least the nose, mouth, and surrounding areas of the lower face. A face covering or face mask may be factory made, homemade, or improvised from ordinary household materials. For purposes of this Ordinance, a plastic face shield shall NOT be considered a face covering or face mask.
2. Face coverings or face masks are required upon entering all businesses open to the public, including any outdoor area unless when outdoors 6 feet of physical distance can be maintained. All such establishments shall post the requirement for a face covering or face mask.
3. All employees of businesses must wear a face covering or face mask when interacting with the public.
4. Members of the public dining at a restaurant may remove face coverings or face masks while seated at their table but must wear a face covering or face mask when entering and exiting the restaurant and moving around the interior of the restaurant.
5. Face coverings or face masks shall not be required for children under 3 years of age.
6. A face covering or face mask is not required to be worn by any person for whom wearing a face covering may pose a risk for health-related reasons. However, in these cases, special effort should be taken to maintain physical distance of at least six feet from other individuals.
7. A person may temporarily remove a face covering or face mask when in a business if obtaining a service or product that requires verification of the person's identity or age.
8. When on public trails, sidewalks, pedestrian public ways, and recreational lands, the wearing of a face covering or face mask is strongly encouraged when 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.
9. To the extent this Ordinance conflicts with stricter requirements set forth in the Governor's Emergency or Executive Orders on face coverings or face masks, the Governor's Orders shall apply.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and shall continue until it is rescinded by the Select Board.

Adopted on this day: _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

Carol Harless, Town Clerk/Tax Collector